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NOTES AND NEWS

CONDALIA MEXICANA SCHLECHT, VAR. PETALIFERA M. C. JOHNSTON, VAR. NOV.-Varieties a typica differens floribus petala parva caduca habetibus. Holotype: Mexico, Zacatecas, rd to Huejuquilla el Alto, Jalisco, 1 mi w of rd junction 18 mi s of Valparaiso on rd to Mezquitic, Jalisco, near Lat 22° 38' N, Long 103° 48' W, McVaugh 17675, Sept. 4-5, 1958 (MICH). This variety is treelike, 6 m tall with a trunk diameter of 20 cm. The fruit is reddish; the flowers are greenish. Only one tree was seen at the type locality. It grew near the summit of a pass at 2100 m in rocky oak-covered mountains. The discovery of this plant supports my recent deemphasis of the significance of the presence or absence of petals in this genus (Brittonia 14:332-368, 1962). It is extremely closely related to C. mexicana Schlecht. of the eastern Sierra (Tamaulipas to Guanajuato and Hidalgo, in southern Puebla, and in northern Oaxaca), but its flowers possess minute petals. Its locality, to the west of the range of C. mexicana var. mexicana and at a much higher elevation, supports its designation as a variety. It also differs from C. mexicana var. mexicana in the dark olivaceous color of the dried specimen and in the arborescent stature. A collection from Durango (Palmer 608, F, GH, UC, US) may also be referable to C. mexicana var. petalifera. This new variety emphasizes the similarities of C. mexicana to the rarely collected petaliferous populations near Guanajuato which have been called C. velutina I. M. Johnst. The Zacatecas plant, however, has the narrow bud scales, small fruits, and sparse pubescence of C. mexicana. — MARSHALL C. JOHNSTON, Plant Research Institute and Department of Botany, University of Texas, Austin.